

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: S. KONDO, et al.  
Application No.: Rule 53(b) of No. 10/441,063  
Filed: April 16, 2004  
For: POLISHING METHOD  
Expected Group: 2812  
Expected Examiner: B. Tran

**CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 16, 2004

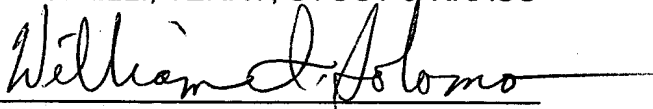
Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 37 CFR §1.55, Applicants hereby claim benefit of the filing date of Japanese Patent Application No. 9-299937, filed in Japan on October 31, 1997.

The certified copy of the above-identified Japanese patent application was submitted March 8, 1999, in prior Application No. 09/182,438, filed October 30, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", written over a horizontal line.

William I. Solomon  
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WIS/sjg